

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM
SUBJECT: REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY

REF: A) STATE 137938, B) GENEVA 08887

1. MISSION IS FORWARDING TO DEPARTMENT A SET OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE ON AFRICAN JURISTS ON "AFRICAN LEGAL PROCESS AND THE INDIVIDUAL" WHICH WAS CONVENED AT ADDIS ABABA, APRIL 1971, BY THE U.N. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA. OPERATIVE PARAS 5 AND 6 OF RESOLUTION 3 READS AS FOLLOWS:
QUOTE 5. WITH A VIEW TO PROMOTING THE BETTER PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, THE CONFERENCE RECOMMENDED FURTHER:

(I) THAT AN AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS BE ESTABLISHED AND CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF COLLECTING AND CIRCULATING INFORMATION RELATING TO LEGISLATION AND DECISIONS CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS IN ANNUAL REPORTS DEVOTED TO THE QUESTION OF CIVIL RIGHTS IN AFRICA;

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(II) THAT AN AFRICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS BE CONCLUDED;

(III) THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO HARMONIZE LEGISLATION IN THE DIFFERENT AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN THIS REGARD;

(IV) THAT AN ADVISORY BODY BE ESTABLISHED TO WHICH

RECOURSE MAY BE HAD FOR THE INTERPRETATION OF THE TERMS OF THE AFRICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS; AND (V) THAT THE VARIOUS AFRICAN STATES BE URGED TO TAKE SPEEDY MEASURES TO ACCEED TO OR RATIFY THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND THE OAU CONVENTION GOVERNING SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF REFUGEE PROBLEMS IN AFRICA.

6. THE CONFERENCE WELCOMES THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AFORESAID UNITED NATIONS SEMINAR HELD IN CAIRO IN 1969 ENTRUSTING THE ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN UNITY WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS FOR AFRICA AND INVITES THE ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN UNITY TO HASTEN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAID RECOMMENDATIONS TAKING ACCOUNT OF EXISTING INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN DRAFTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS IN THIS CONNEXION. UNQUOTE

2. IF THE DEPARTMENT CONTACTS EITHER WALDHEIM OR NIGERIA AS PROPOSED IN REF B, MISSION BELIEVES THIS RESOLUTION SHOULD BE CALLED TO THEIR ATTENTION; IN THE FIRST INSTANCE BECAUSE THE MACHINERY PROPOSED IS FAR SUPERIOR TO ANY RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARE INFORMED ABOUT AND SECONDLY IT COMES FROM AFRICANS LOOKING FOR THE PROPER MACHINERY FOR THEIR REGION.

3. A COMPLETE SET OF THE RESOLUTIONS FROM 1971 MEETING ARE BEING FORWARDED BY POUCH TO THE DEPARTMENT IO/HR, HEWITT, UNDER REGISTRY NUMBER 0999424.VANDEN HEUVEL

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